

SCIENCE SERVICE

Platt

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Dear Josh:

Glad to hear from you again. The postoffice in your old neighborhood doesn't know where you have vanished to as I wrote you twice and both times rec'd my letters back with the familiar "moved--- left no forwarding address"

I don't remember where I left off when I last wrote so I'll go back to last May— rather May 1945. I think I told you that I got sick of hanging around the base and presented a project "through channels" to the Commandant whereby I would get shipped out on a sort of "observer" trip as part of a research study I was making on effectiveness of selection techniques at the Station. ~~XXX~~ The plan was actually approved in fall of 1944 and in Nov I went through the whole training program (retaining my rate etc), went through boot camp, purser trng school, hospital corps sch, etc and etc. even served a one month internship at the Marine Hospital in Staten Island, two weeks of which was spent as Ambulance Intern at the Staten Island General Hospital. That's a story in itself so I'll leave that part go till I next see you. Aboard ship I was to serve as Supply Officer and handle all medical work too.

Well, in May 1945 I was sent on a six week trip to Antwerp. Plans were supposedly foolproof BUT instead of going on a six week trip to Antwerp I was yanked off the ship (my ~~capt.~~ capt. also) and we were assigned to another ship (this all happened two hrs before sailing) and found ourselves headed for the So Pacific.

Instead of a six weeks trip I had an 11 month trip involving 3 ships. I was in Panama, Philippines, New Guinea, Formosa, French Indo China, Mandchuria, and China.

I had a Navy Gunner flown off to Isle of Samar with a case of acute appendicitis, One man was murdered in a little town near Manila in the Philippines, One kid fell in the forepeak and fractured his collarbone, and of course there were the regular cases of VD. Oh yes we were inna Cholera epidemic too. *And then turned out to be 6 psycho cases.*

We became involved in the Chinese Civil War as we were part of the Navy's 7th Fleet, Task Force 74.1 which was a hush hush operation and denied by the State Dept. After ~~XXX~~ several of the boys tipped off their folks as to what we were doing, and they in turn tipped off Drew Pearson, Winchell and others. The whole darn task force was sold (donated) to the Chinese by an act of Congress and we were sent home as Passengers. We hung around in Shanghai with no work waiting for the Congress to pass the bill from Xmas to Feb 22nd and I arrived in Frisco on March 8th this year.

Couldn't get ~~FRISCO~~ relieved in Frisco on acc't of no one wanted to take my box of papers which represented the sum total of what was left of my ship. Also was involved in a Coast Guard hearing on some property that vanished and another

on acc't of the guy that was murdered. So by time I got to New York it was already March 21st and I managed to get cleaned up there by March 23rd. and then hit for Boston.

While home I discovered I required 6 weeks of active service either at sea or back at the station to qualify for a release both from the USMS and also from USNR since I also had a reserve status in the USNR by this time. I didn't relish the thought of going back to sea after that other trip so I managed to get recalled back to the station. *If I didn't play ball the Navy was going to call me to active duty.*

Was at Sheepshead from May 3rd to June 30th and finally let out only because my boss at Science Service pulled some strings to speed things up.

This brings up another story— what am I doing in the nation's capital?

Am working for Science Service— you know the outfit that took over the Science Club program of the Institute. They built it up from 700 clubs at the Institute peak to slightly over 10,00 clubs.

Don't particularly like the job— it's all paper work. Also, the heat is bad, food is ~~lousy~~ and prices are sky high and I do mean high with a capital H.

I had several contacts that I thought would materialize when I came home from China but I lost out on all of them by arriving so late after V-J day.

Now you are up-to-date on my whereabouts and my doings—
How about your own????

Be good

Henry

PS— suggest you tip of your old postoffice as to your whereabouts— you might be losing important mail—

*Love
Have your life ??*